



the Grebe

Volume 5, Issue 4

Fall 2009

Mission of The Friends of
Deer Flat:

The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

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"100 Years of Working Together for Wildlife"

June 6, 2009 - A wonderful event took place on this day; the weather was good - held, anyway - with all the participating organizations coming together following months of planning. With approximately six hundred people attending, a festive mood prevailed. The day started with dignitary speeches under the big tent and a Boy Scout flag-raising signified the opening of the Centennial Trail. Afterwards the public enjoyed the varied activities offered by the numerous booths - the talks and sights of the big birds, and the opportunity to see the results of Eagle Scout projects. Projects included the renovation of the butterfly garden, and the commemorative bench display. Vans were available to take the public to the viewing platforms which were equipped with telescopes and guided walks on the new Centennial trail were provided.

A no-host barbecue, sponsored by Job Corp, was enhanced with music from the Treasure Valley String Quartet, who featured classical, movie soundtrack and bluegrass music. President Theodore Roosevelt, aka Tony Tripp, presided over the event providing photo opportunities and historical information about our 26th president. The art contest winners were announced and raffle drawings were held for fishing equipment and other items.

Bitner Vineyards featured commemorative wines for the Centennial, Mallard Merlot and Shorebird Chardonnay. (The wines are still available for purchase at Bitner Vineyards.) Raffle tickets continued to sell for the queen-sized, hand-appliquéd and hand quilted quilt created by Linda F. Smith and donated by Dr. and Mrs. Bill Watkins. (The winning ticket was drawn at the Bio-Blitz held in August; the lucky ticket holder was Kae Ramsey.) Wandering through the crowd were the amusing Blue Goose and Teddy Bear cartoon characters which had to be the "hot" job of the day.

None of this would have been possible without the wonderful support and work of several different organizations and their working members: Southwestern Idaho Birders Association, Golden Eagle Audubon Society of Boise, Gem Fly Fishermen, Deer Flat NWR staff members and Friends member volunteers.

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The only sad note of the day was the realization that Deer Flat Refuge and our Friends' Group were saying goodbye to our friend and supporter, Elaine Johnson. We know she will be successful in her new position as Refuge Manager at Imperial NWR and we wish her the best of everything in life!

We are also very grateful that Susan Kain, Visitor Services Manager, will remain in our area. Susan works, tirelessly on all her projects, supports us and manages to fill all the empty spaces and jobs - thank you, Susan. And a special thanks to you, the volunteers who just showed up and ended up helping where they were needed, they were a powerful force in the success of this event - a big thank you to three young boys, Robert and Anthony Carson, Matthew Carson, for being our go-for guys.

Refuge Seeking Applicants for Volunteer Coordinator Position

The refuge has begun recruiting applicants for an AmeriCorps member to serve as Volunteer Coordinator. Last year, nearly 700 volunteers contributed over 10,000 hours of service to the refuge. The new Volunteer Coordinator will work with refuge staff to improve and expand the volunteer and service learning programs by recruiting and training new volunteers, identifying volunteer and service learning projects, and coordinating volunteers working on wildlife and habitat, administrative, visitor services, and maintenance projects.

AmeriCorps is a national community service program with over 50,000 members working on projects related to education, the environment, other human needs, homeland security, and public safety. Member benefits include a monthly living allowance, a \$4,725 education scholarship, loan forbearance, housing, childcare, and health insurance.

This full-time position through the Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute will start in January 2010 and continue for 11 months. Applications will be accepted until October 23rd, 2009. Applicants must be over 18; have good written and oral communication skills; have a background in volunteer management, wildlife biology, natural resources, or a related field; and have a desire to serve with people to promote environmental stewardship and an ethic of service. Those interested in applying should contact the refuge (208-467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov) or visit <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/ameriCorps.html> for more information.

Mark your calendar...

Upcoming Events

National Wildlife Refuge Week
October 11th through 17th

Lecture Series
Tuesday, October 13th, 7:00 p.m. - *Amazing Owls of Idaho*

Weed Warriors
Saturday, October 17th, 9 a.m.

Creepy Critter Encounters
Saturday, October 24th, 6 to 8 p.m. - Howl for coyotes and hoot for owls. Make Halloween crafts. Take a scary hike and meet critters on the way. Don't forget to wear your costume! Fun for all ages.

Scout Days
Saturday, November 7th, 1 to 3 p.m.

Lecture Series
Tuesday, November 10th, 7:00 p.m. - *Armchair Idaho Archaeology*

7th Annual Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Appreciation Event.

November 14, 11:30-1

Potluck luncheon to celebrate volunteer and Friends contributions to the refuge in the last year. Invitations will go out to volunteers and Friends soon.

Lecture Series

Tuesday, December 8th, 7:00 p.m. - *A Special Ducks Unlimited program*

Scout Days

Saturday, December 5th, 1 to 3 p.m.

Scout Day Information. Sign up your wolf, bear, and webelo Cub Scouts or Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Pre-registration is required. Call 467-9278 or e-mail deerflat@fws.gov to pre-register.

Upcoming Refuge Events:

For more information on all events, contact the refuge at 467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov

Calling for Nominations for 2010 Board Members

It is that time of year to be contemplating who will lead the Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (FDFWR) in 2010. Will **YOU** be one of the brave and talented souls to step forward? In addition to providing financial support, you as a current member can do much more for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. FDFWR's credibility is greatly enhanced when we can count on **YOU** as a vital and growing membership from all walks of life and in **your willingness to help in the leadership roles of the Friends group**. Thank **YOU** for caring about the refuge!!

Our Annual Election will be held in November. Therefore, we need nominations for 2010 board positions ASAP. These positions are open to any member willing to support and uphold the mission of FDFWR. Current board members will be talking to each of you to solicit your help in obtaining the required nominations.

President for 2010 will be Noreen Tripp who has been the Vice President for 2009. The President presides over all general and executive meetings and serves as general spokesperson for the organization.

Please consider nominating yourself or someone else (with their permission) for one of the following open positions **no later than October 30th**:

Vice President 1-4 hrs/week

The Vice President acts in the absence of the President and carries out special duties as assigned by the President. The Vice President serves a one-year term then serves another one-year term as the President.

Secretary 1-2 hrs/week

The Secretary records and preserves the minutes of all meeting and has charge of all group records. The Secretary also acts as group historian and keeps a scrapbook of all events, related news articles, photographs, etc. The Secretary serves a two-year term.

(continued on page 5)

(Nominations continued from page 4)**Treasurer** 1-4 hrs/week

The Treasurer keeps a roll of members' names and addresses along with dues paid. He or she receives monies on behalf of the group and makes disbursements as approved by the Executive Board. With the help of the Executive Board, the Treasurer maintains and administers a yearly group budget and makes a financial report at the Annual meeting. Lastly, the Treasurer is in charge of establishing and/or maintaining the tax exempt charitable status-- 501(c)(3)-- of the group. The Treasurer serves a two-year term.

Bookstore Manager 1-4 hrs/week

The Bookstore Manager is in charge of the FDFWR's bookstore (*The Grebe's Nest*) located at the refuge's visitor center. The manager keeps track of bookstore inventory, orders merchandise, stocks and arranges bookstore displays and accounts for sales. Working with the Treasurer, the manager makes deposits and keeps appropriate change in the cash box.

Submit Nominations to:

Lyndell Jackson, President
Email: waterfall@speedyquick.net
Phone: 459-4740.

Or

Bob Christensen, Secretary/Treasurer
Email: rcloydchris@juno.com
Phone: 454-2518

The Grebe's Nest Improved!

The Grebe's Nest Bookstore

Downsizing, cutting back, belt tightening - who hasn't heard these words regarding the state of the economy? When I think about our Grebe Nest's Bookstore, the first word that pops into my mind is "Expansion!" Brian Cooper and his sons donated their skills as craftsmen, time, and materials to transform the bookstore into a designated space complete with shelving, lighting, and a locking glass door. They began the project in May and had it completed and ready for shoppers by Deer Flat NWR's Centennial Celebration on June 6, 2009. Talk about impeccable timing!

The new bookstore has provided much needed space for displaying our merchandise and given me the opportunity to add new items to our inventory; the Sibley Bird Guide, National Geographic Bird Field Guide, animal pens and pencil sharpeners, itsy bitsy animals, sticker and tattoo books. Next time you are at the Visitor Center check out our new store and merchandise. The proceeds benefit our refuge and help fulfill our mission statement: "The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations."



Friends' Preserve America History Project Comes to a Successful End

If you haven't been to the refuge recently, now might be a good time to schedule a trip. You can walk the new Centennial Trail to find out about refuge and reservoir history. The 1.2-mile, disabled-accessible trail meanders from the refuge visitor center to and across the historic Upper Dam. Signage along the trail highlights the history of the Refuge and reservoir, allowing you to discover the challenge of living in the desert climate of southwest Idaho, the construction of Lake Lowell, the importance of the lake for both wildlife and people, and how the community are working together to make Lake Lowell an oasis for wildlife and people



Before or after your stroll, be sure to stop in to the visitor center. In the recently-expanded Friends' bookstore, you can purchase a copy of the new historical pamphlet *A Desert Oasis for Wildlife and People: The History of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge from 1909 to 2009*.

Both projects were funded by a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Preserve America grant to the Friends. Other project accomplishments included gathering historical documents and photographs for the refuge archives and recording oral histories about the reservoir and refuge with local citizens.

The Preserve America grant provided over \$14,000 in funding, which was matched by over \$20,000 of in-kind and cash contributions from project partners Boise State University; Bureau of Reclamation; Canyon Agricultural Foundation for Education; Canyon County Historical Society; Canyon County Parks, Recreation, and Waterways; College of Idaho; Idaho State Historical Society; and Wal-Mart.

Thanks to all project volunteers and partners. Without you, these tremendous projects could not have been completed!

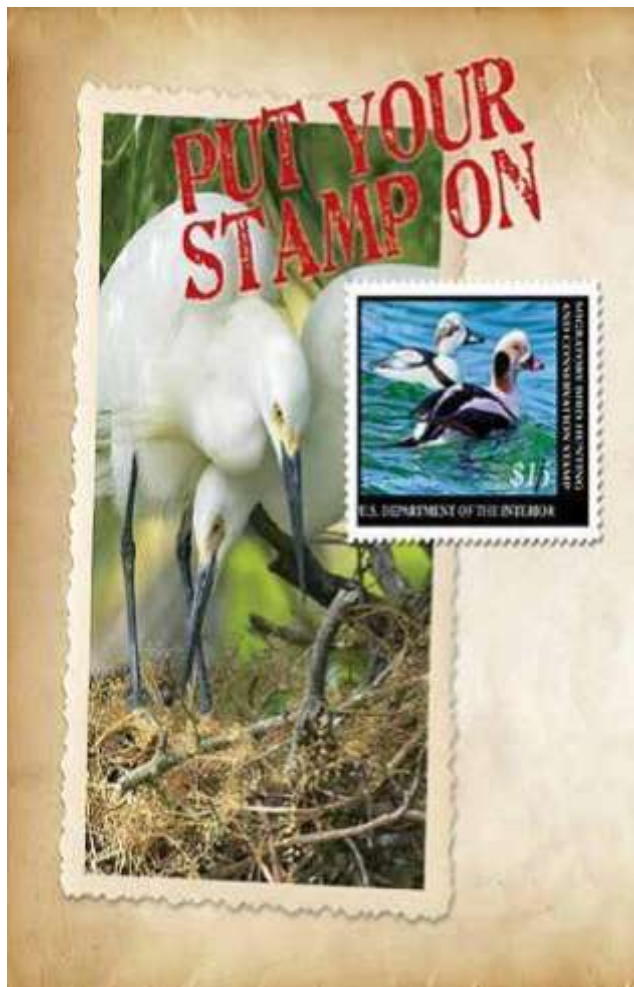


The Blue Goose helped sign designers Christon VanderEsch and Anica Hopkins unveil one of the new interpretive signs at the Centennial Trail ribbon cutting in June

SIDEBAR??

If you are interested in refuge and reservoir history, there are still opportunities to get involved. Refuge staff need volunteers to scan historical documents and photos, organize historical archives, and conduct oral history interviews. For more information, please contact Susan Kain at the refuge (467-9278 or susan_kain@fws.gov).

(photo and text courtesy of Friends Newswire)



...and preserve
great bird habitats.

fws.gov/duckstamps

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If you have a deep and lasting love for wildlife and the future of migratory bird habitats, the time has come to stand up and be counted. Put your stamp on the future of a great American asset. Through the purchase of this year's Federal Duck Stamp, you can play a major role in the acquisition of migratory bird habitats across the country. The stamp, officially called the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, has generated funds for the acquisition of over 5.3 million acres of wetland and grassland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System. With your help, these efforts will continue.

\$15

Your purchase helps protect the best habitats, shows that you care and serves as your pass to all National Wildlife Refuges. Display it with pride and put your stamp on the future!

Available at most U.S. Post Offices, staffed National Wildlife Refuges

Google Earth Includes Refuge Boundaries

Google Earth allows users to display high-resolution aerial and satellite imagery of virtually any place on earth – and now the boundaries of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The basic free version of Google Earth includes dozens of data layers with an assortment of mapping information such as roads, geographic pictures, famous places, businesses, 3D buildings and picture galleries. When a layer is turned on, icons appear with links to additional information.

To view the Refuge System, first download the most recent version of Google Earth from <http://earth.google.com/index.html> and click “download Google Earth 5.0.” To activate the Refuge System boundaries, in the “layers” panel on the bottom left of the screen, scroll down to “places of interest” and click the plus sign (+) to expand the list. Scroll down again to the “parks and recreation areas” and expand this list. Click in the empty box to the left of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Refuge System boundaries are now turned on.

By pressing Ctrl+Alt+C, users can copy a screen image for use in documents or presentations. More advanced options available in the free version of Google Earth include adding customized information, recording a personalized flyby tour, advanced viewing option such as 3D terrain and ocean bathymetry, and adding map plug-ins to Web sites. GPS tracks, including from many Garmin, Magellan, and NMEA-compatible devices, can be uploaded to Google Earth, allowing a user to visualize running, hiking and biking trails.



Volunteers celebrating National Public Lands Day on September 26, 2009 by removing puncture vine, or goat head, at one of the Upper Dam boat launches.

Fighting Fire with Fire



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has turned to the medium that kids love -- video games -- to encourage them to go outside and learn about the environment. Designed for youngsters 8 to 11, the online game, *Neighborhood Explorers*, is available at the Service's Let's Go Outside! Web site, <http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/>.

Neighborhood Explorers provides an excellent educational opportunity. By participating, kids learn about nature and are encouraged to spend more time outside. Children can also learn about problems that the environment is facing and ways to help solve the problems.

The journey through the game begins when you meet three children -- Mia, Lucy and Steve -- who gather in a tree house and talk about all the fun outdoor activities they did over the summer. They form a Neighborhood Explorers Club, called the NX Club, and share information about planting gardens with native plants, backyard bird watching and urban wildlife. By exploring the tree house with the cursor, kids can learn about endangered species, conservation heroes and threats to the natural world. Then they can play a Jeopardy-like trivia game.



*People watching Plants Educational Program—photo courtesy
USDA Forest Service*

Other activities include recording nature sightings in their backyards, a race against time to find a missing praying mantis in the midst of an urban neighborhood, and identifying birds. At the end of the game, youngsters can receive a gold, silver or bronze patch, depending on points scored. Every game is a fun challenge as well as a valuable educational experience. Players can also receive patches for documenting environmental projects and local wildlife.

When kids earn all five patches, they can receive a free tree from the Arbor Day Foundation. After earning all five patches, youngsters will be directed to the Arbor Day Foundation Web site, where they can provide name and address to get the free tree and directions for planting. Only 450 trees are available.

Commemorative Centennial Wine



Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge have partnered with Bitner Vineyards to create a special edition bottling of their Merlot and Chardonnay with labels commemorating the 100th anniversary of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Profits from the sale of this special edition wine will be used to help fund ongoing and new conservation and education programs at the refuge, continuing the legacy of the refuge system. These wines are a collector's item to mark this special occasion.

For More Information Contact: Lyndell Jackson at (208)459-4740

Wines will be available for pickup at Bitner Vineyards, Caldwell, ID.

Weekends-Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12-5pm

Directions:

- **From Boise**
- Take I-84 Exit 33 A to Highway 55 (Karcher Rd)
- **From Caldwell**
- Take I-84 Exit #28 and go South on 10th Ave to Highway 55 (Karcher Rd) and Turn Right

Once on Highway 55, go West and turn Right on Hoskins Rd and Right on Plum Rd. Go up and over the hill and you'll see the "Bitner Vineyards" sign. The address is 16645 Plum Road, Caldwell, ID 83607.



Please send orders and payment to the address on the back of this form.

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Rd.
Nampa, ID 83686

Now Available

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Limited Edition Centennial Wines

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Type	Price	Qty
<i>Shorebird Chardonnay</i>	\$16	
<i>Mallard Merlot</i>	\$20	
Subtotal		
Case Discount (12 bottles +)	-10%	
Tax	+6%	
Total		

Payment Method:

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Check
- ☐ Credit Card
 - ☐ Visa
 - ☐ Mastercard
 - ☐ American Express
 - ☐ Discover

Please Return this form, along with
payment and/or payment
information, to:

Card #: _____

Bitner Vineyards
c/o Deer Flat Wines
16645 Plum Road
Caldwell, ID 83607
208-899-7648

Exp. Date: _____

CCV#: _____

Be a Friend! Join Today!

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone

Email

Annual Membership Categories

Owl (Senior & Student)	\$10
Deer (Individual)	\$15
Fox (Family)	\$25
Osprey	\$50
Eagle	\$100
Goldeneye	\$500

All contributions are tax deductible

Please print this page and return with a check
payable to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046





FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT WILDLIFE REFUGE

13751 Upper Embankment
Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Executive Board:
President - Lyndell
Jackson (459-4740)
Vice President - Noreen
Tripp (468-0402)
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob
Christensen (454-2518)

Newsletter - Denise Hughes
(850-5885)

We are on the web at:
[www.fws.gov/deerflat/
friends.htm](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/friends.htm)

To preserves and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in December 2009

Lecture Series Programs

October 13th - Owls
of Idaho

Owl biologist Katie
McVey, the new ref-
uge AmeriCorps
member and Environ-
mental Education
Specialist, will speak
about the amazing
owls of Idaho.



November 10th -
Photographic tour of
Idaho petroglyphs



Join Kathy Hamlett of
the Idaho Archaeo-
logical Society for
some armchair ar-
chaeology. Take a
photographic tour of
local petroglyphs and
learn their history.

December 8th - Join us
for a special program
from Ducks Unlimited

